

Hearing ear dog proving to be real 'Peach' for Milton man

By Julie Slack
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF



Peach helps John Crozier, who's deaf, and his wife Diane sleep better at night knowing the dog will alert John to sounds he can't hear. *Julie Slack / Canadian Champion*

Peach has made John and Diane Crozier's life a whole lot — well — peachier.

A white Labrador retriever, Peach is a Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guide trained to be John's ears since he's deaf.

A Milton resident, John, 71, received the dog from the Oakville non-profit organization on December 18. It was instant love, and John has been sleeping better since her arrival.


John said his hearing steadily declined over the last 30 years, but in the last five, it deteriorated rapidly. Three years ago — almost to the day that he received Peach — he underwent a cochlear implant that allows him to hear sounds from in front of him, but he can't hear anything happening behind him. He also can't hear when he takes it out at night to sleep.

So 18 months ago, when his wife went out to the movies one night with a friend and forgot her house keys, he didn't hear her urgently ringing the doorbell, and phoning him to let her inside. Instead, he was asleep in his bed, unaware of her plight. She had to stay with friends and return home early the next morning so John wouldn't worry about where she was.

Needless to say, had it been a worse situation, like a smoke alarm or carbon monoxide detector, he wouldn't have heard that either and that could be life-threatening.

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